

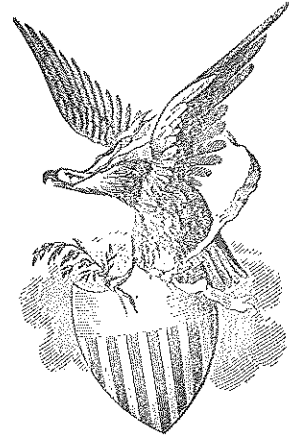
Town of Silverton

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RESOLUTION 2008 - 17 A



A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SILVERTON, COLORADO IN SUPPORT OF LOCATING A FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IN LA PLATA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Silverton recognizes the vital importance of the effective and efficient exercise of criminal and civil justice to the people of Southwest Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Silverton appreciates the significant contribution of the Federal Court System to operation of the criminal and civil justice system in Southwest Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Silverton recognizes the significant hardship placed on litigants, witnesses, crime victims, law enforcement and other participants in having to travel for many hours in order to attend Federal proceedings in Denver; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing, permanent presence of an Article III Judge in Southwest Colorado would greatly assist the Sovereign Tribal Nations which are reliant on Federal Court proceedings to adjudicate a wide variety of tribal matters; and

WHEREAS, the consistent presence of an Article III Judge in Southwest Colorado would result in criminal proceedings truly being presented before a jury of the defendant's peers; and

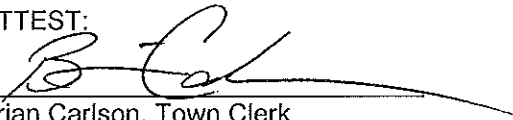
WHEREAS, Silverton appreciates the significant economic contribution to the local economy that both an Article III Judge and a Federal Courthouse would bring to Southwest Colorado.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Silverton that:

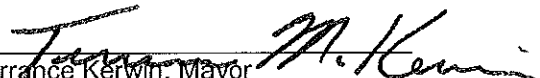
1. The Town Board of the Town of Silverton strongly supports the location and construction of a Federal Courthouse in Southwestern Colorado;
2. The Town Board of the Town of Silverton strongly supports the appointment of an Article III Judge to the Courthouse in Southwestern Colorado; and
3. The Town Board of the Town of Silverton strongly supports, where feasible, the use of cooperative efforts between the Federal Government, Sovereign Nations, and local County, City and Town Governments to co-locate criminal justice operations with the Federal Courthouse to improve operational efficiency and security.

READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2008 by the Town Board
of the Town of Silverton, Colorado.

ATTEST:



Brian Carlson, Town Clerk



Terrance Kerwin, Mayor



KELLIE C. HOTTER • JOELLE RIDDLE • WALLACE "WALLY" WHITE • COMMISSIONERS
PHONE 970.382.6219 • FAX 970.382.6299 • TDD 970.382.6218

September 3, 2008

Town of Silverton
Board of Trustees
1360 Greene Street
Silverton, CO 81433

Dear Town Board Members:

We understand that at your next town meeting on Tuesday, September 8th you will be considering a resolution in support of a permanent Federal Courthouse, and an Article III Judge to the Courthouse, to be located in southwest Colorado. We wholeheartedly urge you to vote for its passage.

Southwest Colorado is a large geographical area and it is vitally important that efficient criminal and civil justice be available to the citizens of this region. As we are sure you have experienced, significant hardship is placed on litigants, witnesses, crime victims, law enforcement, and other participants in having to travel for many hours in order to attend Federal proceedings in Denver. In addition, the costs associated with the travel of prosecutors, investigators, witnesses and members of victims' and defendants' families is problematic and, in some instances, prevents those affected by crimes from participating in the criminal justice system. Also, a Federal Courthouse in this region would allow for criminal proceedings to be truly presented before a jury of the defendant's peers.

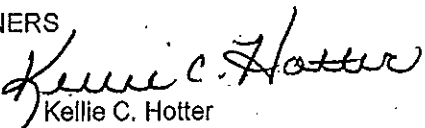
The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes in this region are reliant on the Federal Courts to adjudicate a wide variety of tribal matters including criminal cases related to violations of federal laws in Indian Country. Currently, Tribal members experience great hardship in traveling to federal court, and tribal members from our area never get to be tried by a jury from their community, nor do many get to serve on a federal jury. The ongoing, permanent presence of an Article III Judge in Southwest Colorado would greatly assist the tribes in receiving the legal rights as citizens that they deserve.

Support for a federal courthouse has already been given at the tribal, county and municipality levels. Resolutions of support have been signed by Archuleta, La Plata and Montezuma Counties; the cities of Cortez and Durango; and the incorporated towns of Mancos, Pagosa Springs, Bayfield, and Ignacio. Additionally, the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribes have also resolved their support for this action. We would encourage you to add the town of Silverton to our roster of support.

Respectfully,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Joelle Riddle
Chair


Kellie C. Hotter
Vice Chair


Wallace L. White
Commissioner